

REMARKS

In response to item 1 of the official action, please cancel claims 1 to 59, which are drawn to a non elected species.

We note that the examiner has withdrawn the objection based on Lazzoomi et al to claims 60 to 113 but has raised a new objection, based on US patent No 6,050,607 to Mowry.

Claim 60 defines a method. The method includes the following steps:

- (a) defining coded data, the coded data being comprised of a plurality of codeword and being indicative of:
a region identity associated with the region; and
a plurality of points within the region;*
- (b) disposing the coded data within a region on the surface in the form of a plurality of sets of symbols, each set of symbols corresponding to a one of the plurality of codeword and
wherein the step of disposing includes interleaving on the surface the symbols of each set with at least one symbol of at least another set of the plurality of sets of symbols.*

Mowry discloses a method which results in tiling elements 24 being disposed on the surface. Each tiling element 24 is comprised of printed units 26. The printed units 26 are each comprised of a plurality of printed pixels and each unit may be a (visible) dot, square, line, circle, star or other character (see column 6 lines 26 to 34).

The units 26 themselves do not carry any information per se but as a group define an image that is used to prevent a copy of the article being passed off as the original.

There is no disclosure in Mowry of defining coded data as required by (a) of claim 60 of the present invention.

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There is no disclosure in Mowry of disposing coded data on the surface. Nor is there any disclosure of disposing coded data ... in the form of a plurality of sets of symbols. The symbols (square, circles etc) of Mowry do not represent coded data.

Further, because the symbols of Mowry do not represent coded data there is no disclosure in Mowry of 'each set of symbols' corresponding to a one of the plurality of codewords.

When claim 60 is considered as a whole it is clear that the invention claimed is not disclosed by Mowry and as such claim 60 is allowable.

Claim 112 has been amended to be dependent on claims 60 to 64 or 67.

Claims 61 to 113 are now all dependent on claim 60, which is believed to be allowable and accordingly, all of the pending claims are believed to be allowable.

We look forward to receiving a notice of allowance in due course.

Very respectfully,

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